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News You Can Use

2025 Membership Renewal Period Is Open!
The Southern Gold Society is excited to announce that the 2025 membership renewal period has officially begun. Annual dues remain $25 and can be paid via check. Please make checks payable to *Southern Gold Society* and mail them to:

David Crenshaw
P.O. Box 237
Dacula, GA 30019

Renew today to ensure your continued access to all the benefits and activities our club offers. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our shared passion for Southern gold coinage!

Volunteers and Presenters Needed for 2025 Gatherings
The Southern Gold Society is excited to announce that we are exploring opportunities to host gatherings at several major numismatic events in 2025. These include the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Convention, scheduled for January 9-12, the American Numismatic Association (ANA) National Money Show, from February 27 to March 1, and the Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA) Coin Show, taking place April 11-13.

These gatherings present a fantastic opportunity for members to connect, share knowledge, and celebrate our shared passion for Southern gold coinage. We are currently seeking members who are interested in presenting educational programs at these events. Whether you have a special topic in mind or an interesting collection to discuss, your contribution would greatly enrich the experience for all attendees.

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to help with organizing these gatherings. If you're enthusiastic about assisting with logistics or facilitating the

events, your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in presenting or volunteering, please reach out to us at **contactus@southerngoldsociety.org**. We look forward to hearing from you and making these gatherings a memorable highlight of the upcoming year!

The 1861-D Gold Dollar with a Historic Planchet Flaw

The 1861-D Indian Head gold dollar stands as one of the most compelling and historically significant coins minted at the Dahlonega Mint, capturing a tumultuous moment in American history. A recent sale of an example graded PCGS About Uncirculated Details, due to a Mint-made planchet flaw, for $26,400 at Stack’s Bowers’ Rarities Night session in August 2023 highlights the ongoing fascination with this issue.

Steve Roach, in his analysis for *Coin World*, emphasizes the uniqueness of the Details grade assigned to this coin. Unlike many Details-graded pieces that bear evidence of mishandling, this coin’s flaw originates from the minting process itself. The shallow planchet void weaves from the obverse border at 7 o’clock, through Liberty's profile, and into the final “S” in "STATES," yet the coin remains strikingly attractive. Bathed in warm honey-olive tones with hints of reddish-rose at the borders, the coin features a satiny finish with semi-reflective fields, a feature that intrigued collectors despite the planchet imperfection.

The allure of the 1861-D gold dollar goes far beyond aesthetics. This issue is the only gold dollar minted exclusively under the authority of the Confederate States of America, lending it a unique place in the gold dollar series. Stack's Bowers Galleries' lot description contextualizes the coin within the broader narrative of secession and war. By early 1861, as Georgia broke away from the Union and aligned with the Confederacy, the Dahlonega Mint's personnel shifted their loyalties. By March, they began striking gold dollars using bullion that was on hand, ultimately producing between 500 and 1,000 coins under Confederate auspices.

Unlike earlier production, the quality of these coins was notably poor. The overuse of an obverse die from 1860, combined with hurried minting practices and degraded die conditions, led to weak strikes, especially around the periphery. The letter "U" in "UNITED" often appears obliterated, and the reverse shows softness around the denticles, making well-preserved examples all the

more valuable to collectors.

While the total mintage may have been between 500 and 1,500 coins, only about 70 to 100 examples are believed to exist today. Remarkably, many of these survivors are in relatively high grades, clustered around the About Uncirculated range. This phenomenon has led some numismatists to speculate about the preservation of these coins, perhaps as Confederate relics or from small hoards that protected them from heavy circulation.

The recently auctioned AU Details piece, despite its imperfections, exemplifies the distinct charm and complex narrative of this issue. Even with a planchet flaw, the coin's allure lies in its rich, historical significance and visual appeal. As Roach and Stack’s Bowers note, the honey-olive and rose hues combined with the tale of Confederate minting make this coin a true national treasure, treasured by Southern gold enthusiasts.

For members of the Southern Gold Society, the 1861-D gold dollar is more than just a collectible. It is a tangible connection to a dramatic chapter in American history—a symbol of a nation's fracture and the resilient artistry of Dahlonega's coinage, even under the most pressing conditions. As more examples of this iconic gold dollar come to light, they continue to tell the story of a divided nation and a Confederate mint's fleeting legacy.

References: Analysis by Steve Roach, Coin World; Lot Description, Stack's Bowers Galleries.

Writers Needed

One of the purposes of the SGS is to “enjoy each member's knowledge.” This newsletter is one of the ways this numismatic knowledge is dispersed. The frequency of the newsletter is driven by the number of submissions for publication. The editor of the SGS eNewsletter needs new material and welcomes the opportunity to review your original article for publication. Articles should be relevant to the study of the gold coins and related history of the Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans branch mints and private minters Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers. If you do a presentation at a gathering or other venue, consider compiling your notes into an article. Do not worry about the grammar. The editor will do the rest. Electronic manuscripts should be submitted by email to contactus@southerngoldsociety.org.

Mission Statement

The Southern Gold Society was formed to increase the enjoyment and study of Southern gold coins and related history, through an informal, relaxed mix of education and fellowship. The society is reminiscent of those of a bygone era, in which connoisseurship and a gentlemanly appreciation of Southern gold coins is the order of the day.

Purpose

- To facilitate the enjoyment and study of the gold coins and related history of the Southern branch mints (Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans) and private Southern minters (Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers).
- To enjoy each member's knowledge and friendship in an informal manner.
- To provide a relaxed, pleasant environment in which to meet during selected coin shows and other convenient events.
- To encourage the appreciation and preservation of a Southern gold coin’s original surfaces.
- To consolidate the information, resources, and talent available to enthusiasts of these historic Southern gold coins.

Annual Membership Fees

Regular $25 (January-December).

Membership for new members joining in October, November, or December extends through the next year. Checks for membership fees should be made payable to the Southern Gold Society and mailed to David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 237, Dacula, GA 30019-0004.

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As a member of the Southern Gold Society, you are automatically subscribed to our mailing list.

Our mailing address is:
Southern Gold Society
P.O. Box 237
Dacula, GA 30019

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